

RAW NEWS

an Independent Media Centre (IMC) publication

<http://ontario.indymedia.org>



Freedom of the press in doubt

The following describes events up to and including the arrest of an Indymedia reporter:

There was disagreement on where next to proceed after police attempted to split the demonstration and isolate the bloc and the rest of the anti-capitalist protesters.

We suddenly observed cops discussing among themselves and we started screaming, "hey! get aware, they're planning something."

Suddenly, the police charged the crowd,

who after two and a half hours had not been violent in any way. Nothing was even thrown at police in self defense, we resorted to the snake march tactics of walking away from police confrontation.

When the police charged, they decided to target a cameraman who was dressed in black. I can vouch for the fact that the arrestee did not commit any illegal actions, ie. spray paint, property damage, etc. as he was trying to compile documentary footage for

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The indymedia movement relies on people to participate in the making of media. Please visit the ontario site and tell your own story (click on 'publish').

Visit the site for all the latest news.

Indymedia Ontario and Hamilton.

A dozen pigs tackled him to the ground.

He was picked off purely because police saw the advantage of getting indymedia footage, since much of the corporate media was targeted on the day by the bloc.

Police arrest Indymedia journalist

Four officers question, intimidate and search residence of another Indy volunteer

The private residence of a journalist was searched by Ottawa municipal Police yesterday, one day before this weekend's G-20 and IMF finance meetings in Canada's national capital.

The journalist, who was expecting to billet a half-dozen protesters and independent reporters arriving in Ottawa for the November 16-18 meetings, was questioned by four plainclothed police officers late Thursday night.

"We're just here to make sure that things stay peaceful," a senior investigative officer who identified himself only as Sergeant Johnson of the Ottawa Police Service, told the journalist, Derek Reid.

After hearing a knock at his door, Reid was greeted by the officers, who showed him an Ottawa Police badge and entered his downtown apartment. The officers told Reid they wanted to ask him a few questions, after several protesters he was to have billeted were turned away while trying to drive across the Canada/U.S. border. At least 5,000 protesters are expected in Ottawa to protest against the G-20 and the IMF this weekend.

The police officer asked Reid what he knew about protest actions being organized in the city. Reid answered that he was simply providing billeting during the G-20 meetings.

He was then asked about a gathering that had taken place in his apartment to discuss independent media coverage of the high-level meetings.

While being asked further questions from one of the officers, three officers searched the apartment, Reid says. He believes the officers were looking for information about potential anarchist activities in Ottawa. The police soon left the apartment, and no arrests were made.

"All that I know is what has been made public," Reid told police, after which he gave the address of a Web site that was to provide media coverage of the G-20 meetings and protests.

When Reid asked one of the officers whether independent journalists were to be targeted during the protests, the officer answered: "We'll leave them alone if they're not violent."

At the FTAA Summit of the Americas in Quebec City last April, members of various Canadian police forces who had been confronting protesters were said to have sprayed tear gas into the temporary offices of the Quebec Independent Media Centre (CMAC). Journalists there were reported to have barricaded their office with clothing to keep the tear gas out.

As well, during the trade talks in Genoa, Italy, police stormed the press offices of the Independent Media Centre armed with tear gas and batons. Italian military police and unknown provocateurs simultaneously raided school building across the street that had been hosting various social groups participating in the protest.

During the raid, journalists were forced to stand against the wall with their hands up while police searched equipment and personal effects. Reports vary on the number of injuries sustained by IMC staff.

IMC-Italia reported that one IMC reporter from the U.K. was hospitalized with serious injuries. Materials reportedly seized during the raid include audio Mini-Discs, videotapes and computer hard drives. Other reports allege that telecommunications equipment was damaged.

Meanwhile, the Ottawa Police officers at Reid's apartment said they had not heard about these events, including the Quebec City raid on its media centre.

One officer then asked Reid how many protesters were expected at his apartment, to which he answered "three or four."

After further questioning, the officer asked: "Do you always invite strangers into your house?"

Protests are underway

A black bloc report from N16

The day started with a convergence at an open area park. We were a little nervous as our numbers were very small : around 300 or so.

While listening to various speeches we attempted to organize a cluster of anarchist affinity groups. This black cluster ended the day with extreme success.

We began marching behind an anarchist banner that said, "Smash the State, End the Hate." The snake march tactic commenced with police lining off sides of intersections and the demonstration just choosing to march away from them.

On the way, several members of the bloc sprayed paint upon corporate media and marked up camera lenses.

The march began to gain energy as we approached the perimeter, even with our small numbers we easily dismantled the pathetic police barricade and used it to our own advantage. Several bloc members charged corporate mainstream media with metal barricades. That was great fun and hilarious also, I remember hearing one journalist from CBC with a petrified look on his face saying, "Oh shit!"

The black bloc along with militant supporters crossed the barricades and were venturing

towards the second "line of defense" 200 metres from the Chateau Laurier. However, we were suddenly surprised that we found ourselves alone.

We attempted by screams of solidarity to invite the main body of the demonstration to cross the barricades with us. However it was to no avail. After taking what seemed like a 10 minute break in the middle of the street to put on our gas masks, we marched back, attempting to snake march around to Parliament Hill.

As police blocked our way, several bloc members began discussing targets, the first and foremost that came to mind was McDonalds. Great coincidence that we would reach a McDo's five minutes later. The plan was to spray paint Mickey D's, but rocks and metal poles were found lying in the street that were put to effective use.

McDonalds was the only window-smashing of the day and there are many beautiful spray-painted slogans now present in downtown Ottawa.

At a stand-off not too soon the police attempted to charge, jumping one black dressed cameraman, who is with IMC-Ontario. Soon after, police targetted another protestor and nabbed him also.

The march was de-escalating and losing

Peaceful protestor roughed up and injured by police

A young woman was injured by two police officers at Metcalfe and Laurier at 5:00 pm this afternoon while protestors chanted at line of riot police "We're not violent — how 'bout you?"

She was struck on the jaw and the left leg and thrown to the ground. Medics cared for her on scene and protected her from media and the curious to allow her to recover her bearings. She has asked that her name not be released at this time. She states that she does not know why she was singled out and struck and was not engaged in challenging the police line or in any other provocative activity at the time she was attacked. She was escorted to the medic centre and is shaken but recovering. Her left leg is badly bruised just below the knee.

energy. We decided to venture to the Supreme Court and have a quick form of spokescouncil to discuss what we were to do next. It was also at this point that a good portion of the bloc de-blocked.

We marched down to meet another march for Global Justice and Against War & Racism. As we were marching to meet them, the tone of the protest escalated beautifully non-violently. We had flashbacks to the strong solidarity festivities that were present in Quebec City.

People having troubles getting into Canada

Various accounts of protestors having trouble getting into the country have been posted to the ontario.indymedia.org site. Some clips:

Lisa Fithian and Starhawk arrived Monday night at the Ottawa airport and were held for five hours. They let Starhawk in Canada, but they confiscated her computer. They told Lisa to come back the next day at 11:00 am, or face a warrant for her arrest.

Lisa was released from police custody Thursday morning at around 10:00am.

Two separate cars have been denied. One included peaceful protestors being completely honest (note: people in car had previous records). Denied after photocopying everything they wanted in the car and being held up for two-plus hours. Not allowed in the country because "wasn't a genuine visitor," not allowed in the country "to protest." Told if wanted to protest, go back to America to protest.

Second report: other car of people "going to concert," not allowed in country. Planning on "going to rock concert," called "li-

ars." Told that if they had been "honest" they would have been let into the country. Feel this was BS. Very thorough searches. Everything read: diaries, notebooks, school notes — anything off, you ain't going through.

Both cars feel that Canadian immigration is not allowing people into the country if they feel they are involved. Be forewarned: honesty with the Canadian police will not get you into the country to protest the IMF.

Sites: Ogdensburg and Thousand Islands

My affinity group was also turned back, despite the fact the we had no criminal record at all, and had contacts in Canada who we said we were visiting. After checking the address, they searched our car for over an hour. The only thing they found was a pair of swimming goggles and some black clothing, which qualified as "violent terrorist periphenelia."

We were then turned back for being

"potentially violent protestors," after all of our information was tagged. This was at the same location as the previous comment. my advice to people would be to not mention anything near Ottawa, bring no equipment, and try your best to avoid this and other major crossings. Tons of people looked like they were being turned back, and this at 4:00 am. Next time we need to coordinate border crossings in a more fool-proof fashion.

Like to the above comments, we tried to cross Friday morning on the 189 in Vermont, denied for a DUI in 1992. Then they searched the fuck out of the vehicle, ripped through every bag, finding a gas mask and some flyers from a protest. They also told us that if we had not tried to lie about going to Ottawa we could have entered. Probably a lie, but somebody should try it. Travel completely clean, no protest gear or flyers/stickers/black clothes.